

**Page Denied**

OCA 86-3815  
10 November 1986

NOTE FOR: The Director  
The Deputy Director

FROM: Dave Gries *DP*

SUBJECT: Hamilton Letter on Iran

In the attached, Hamilton asks that you, ~~S~~chultz, Weinberger and Poindexter appear on 21 November for a hearing on Iran. Hamilton undoubtedly is aware that four cabinet-level officers are unlikely to appear together; he is probably hoping for one plus deputies and certainly does not expect to see Poindexter.

Depending upon how the White House wants to proceed, several scenarios are available. If the White House wants to put this into traditional channels, we could accept the invitation for the 21st, prepare testimony for you and invite Armacost and Ikle to help with questions.

If the White House wants to pursue a more informal course in order to respond to the invitation to Poindexter without raising constitutional issues, we could probably arrange for Poindexter to meet informally with the committee in Hamilton's office or in the White House, thus making clear that no hearing is being held. The National Security Advisor does occasionally brief congressional committees informally.

Obviously the first of the two scenarios is preferable. If unacceptable to the committee, we could retreat to the second. A final fallback might combine the two scenarios; that is, a formal committee appearance by you, together with State and Defense, followed separately by an informal discussion with Poindexter.

You may want to discuss this with Poindexter at your Thursday meeting, if not before. Hamilton will be travelling in the Middle East until the 19th or 20th.

Attachment

~~SECRET~~

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November 10, 1986

Honorable William J. Casey  
 Director of Central Intelligence  
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

Recent press accounts of arrangements between the United States and Iran involving the release of U.S. persons being held hostage in Lebanon in exchange for the provision of military equipment to Iran, raise a number of questions about our policy on negotiating with hostage takers and about the role of the CIA, if any, in the secret trip by Mr. McFarlane to Iran.

I invite you to brief the Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on these matters at 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 21, 1986 in the Committee Hearing Room, H-405, the Capitol.

I am also inviting the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to brief the Committee on the same subject at that time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Lee H. Hamilton  
 Chairman